

ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP AIR QUALITY & SMOKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Air Quality & Smoke Management Committee (AQSMC) is to provide technical expertise to identify and respond to air quality and smoke management issues that have the potential to or are affecting the Interagency Fire Management program.

II. AUTHORITY

Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group: Memorandum of Understanding Sec. V.3.

III. MEMBERSHIP

A. The AQSMC will consist of one representative from the following agencies.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality Division,
(AWFCG Liaison)
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska Fire Service
National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service

B. Other agencies, organizations and institutions may be contacted to consult, advise, or assist the AQSMC as determined by the members.

IV. FUNCTIONS

The AQSMC will:

- A. Serve as a forum for identification and discussion of quality and smoke management issues affecting the Alaska interagency fire and provide recommendations to AWFCG for resolution of issues and problems.
- B. Evaluate new air quality and smoke management regulations related to fire management within Alaska and prepare written response, when appropriate, for AWFCG approval and submission to regulatory agency.
- C. Recommend to AWFCG when AQSMC or AWFCG members need to attend interagency regional or national meetings addressing air quality and smoke

management issues/regulations to insure that Alaska interagency fire management concerns and needs are addressed. An example is WESTAR, Ecosystem working group meetings.

- D. Evaluate new air quality and smoke management methodologies and equipment for application to interagency fire management program.
- E. Provide air quality and smoke management information/data related to human health or firefighter safety to Alaska Firefighter Safety and Health Committee (AFSHC). If appropriate, work jointly with AFSHC to address safety issues related to air quality and smoke management.

V. Organization and Structure

- A. The AQSMC members will elect a Chair. The Chair will rotate between the committee members. The Chair term of office will be two years.
- B. A quorum consisting of four (4) members of the AQSMC is required to conduct official business.

VI. TASK GROUPS

Task groups and their Chair may be established by the Committee to address specific, non-recurring issues that require significant effort with a smaller group, but can be resolved within a finite time period. Task group reports and recommendations must be submitted to the AQSMC for approval and/or further action.

VII. MEETINGS AND REPORTS

- A. Meeting of the FTQC will be held as often as necessary based upon assignments from AWFCG or emergence of air quality or smoke management issues. The Chair is responsible for scheduling these meetings.
- B. The Chair is responsible for arranging meeting facilities, providing advanced meeting agenda, preparing timely reports of the meeting minutes, and preparing and presenting any reports to, or requested by, the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group.

VIII. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Routine costs of members will be borne by their respective agencies.

IX. APPROVAL

This charter is effective as of the date signed and approved by the respective officials of the member agencies. This charter will be revised only upon recommendation of a majority of the AQSMC members and approval by the AWFCG.

Approval: William B. Cella
Chair, Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group

Date: January 28, 1998